

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel claims 9-15 and 26-31. A complete listing of the claims, including their current status, is set forth below.

**1-15. (Cancelled)**

**16. (Previously presented)** A method of modulating apoptosis in a cell in vitro comprising: administering to said cell an exogenous compound that binds to a Toso protein of said cell, wherein said Toso protein is encoded by a nucleic acid that hybridizes under high stringency conditions to the nucleic acid sequence depicted in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:1) or its complement, wherein said binding of the compound to the Toso protein modulates apoptosis in said cell.

**17. (Previously presented)** The method according to claim 16, wherein the binding of said exogenous compound to said Toso protein reduces or eliminates the biological activity of said Toso protein.

**18. (Previously presented)** The method according to claim 16, wherein the binding of said exogenous compound to said Toso protein increases the biological activity of said Toso protein.

**19-31. (Cancelled)**